

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A vent for a housing, the housing defining an interior space and an exterior space, the vent comprising:
 - a) a metal body comprising an aperture for the passage of a fluid between the interior space and the exterior space defined by said housing and a first metallic membrane bearing surface surrounding the aperture and
 - b) a porous polymeric membrane having a first side in contact with the first metallic membrane bearing surface and
 - c) a metal shell having a second metallic membrane bearing surface, said shell being attached to the body by an interference fit, wherein compression of the membrane, between the first metallic membrane bearing surface and the second metallic membrane bearing surface forms a moisture proof seal.
2. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, further comprising a cap for protecting the membrane.
3. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 2, wherein the cap further comprises at least one perforation for the passage of a fluid.
4. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1 wherein the membrane is gas permeable and liquid resistant.
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The vent of claim 1, wherein the porous polymeric membrane comprises ePTFE.
6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The vent of claim 5, in which the porous polymeric membrane comprises ePTFE and at least one support layer.

7. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 5, wherein the membrane comprises ePTFE and a filler.
8. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 7, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of absorbents, adsorbents, surface energy modifiers; colorants, pigments, anti-microbials, anti-bacterial agents, anti-fungals and mixtures thereof.
9. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 5, wherein the membrane further comprises a coating.
10. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 9, wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of absorbents, adsorbents, surface energy modifiers; colorants, pigments, anti-microbials, anti-bacterial agents, anti-fungals and mixtures thereof.
11. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 13 mils.
12. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 10 mils.
13. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 5 mils.
14. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 3 mils.
15. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the seal is a hermetic seal.
16. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 1, wherein the vent body comprises stainless steel.
17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A vent for a housing, the housing defining an interior space and an exterior space, the vent consisting essentially of:

- a) a metal body having an aperture for the passage of a fluid between the interior space and the exterior space defined by said housing and a membrane bearing surface surrounding the aperture;
 - b) a porous polymeric membrane covering the aperture and having a first side in contact with the first membrane bearing surface and a second side opposite the first side;
 - c) a metal shell having a second membrane bearing surface, the second membrane bearing surface in contact with the second side of the membrane and said shell attached to said body by an interference fit to form a moisture proof seal surrounding the aperture.
18. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, further comprising a cap for protecting the membrane.
19. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 18, wherein the cap further comprises at least one perforation for the passage of a fluid.
20. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane comprises ePTFE.
21. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 20, in which the membrane comprises ePTFE and at least one support layer.
22. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 20, wherein the membrane comprises ePTFE and a filler.
23. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 22, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of absorbents, adsorbents, colorants, surface energy modifiers; pigments, anti-microbials, anti-bacterial agents, anti-fungals and mixtures thereof.
24. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 20, wherein the membrane further comprises a coating.
25. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 24, wherein the coating is selected from the group consisting of absorbents, adsorbents, surface energy modifiers;

colorants, pigments, anti-microbials, anti-bacterial agents, anti-fungals and mixtures thereof.

26. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane is gas permeable and liquid resistant.
27. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 13 mils.
28. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 10 mils.
29. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 5 mils.
30. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the membrane has a thickness of less than about 3 mils.
31. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the seal is a hermetic seal.
32. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the shell further comprises a baffle disposed between the at least one perforation and the membrane for preventing liquid from contacting the membrane.
33. (ORIGINAL) The vent of claim 17, wherein the body and shell comprise stainless steel.
34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A device, comprising:
 - a) a housing for enclosing equipment or chemicals;
 - b) a port in the housing;
 - c) a vent disposed over the port, the vent consisting essentially of a metal body having an aperture for passage of a gas;
 - d) a porous membrane spanning the aperture; and
 - e) a metal cap having a perforation therein for the passage of a gas, the cap attached to the body by an interference fit,

whereby compression of the membrane between the metal body and the metal cap forms a seal between the membrane and the body.

35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of making a vent for a housing, the housing defining an interior space and an exterior space, the vent comprising:

- a) providing a metal body including an aperture therethrough for the passage of a gas between the interior space and the exterior space defined by said housing,
- b) covering the aperture with a porous polymeric membrane such that the membrane contacts the metal body,
- c) attaching a metal cover having a perforation therein to the metal body by an interference fit whereby the cover compress[[ion]]es [[of]] the porous polymeric membrane between the metal cover and the metal body, whereby a moisture proof seal surrounding the aperture is formed ~~between the membrane and the metal body.~~